any other means, is something which has not been considered to be a prudent financial practice. That is why we have found ourselves unable to accept it and I am unable to say, at this point of time, that it will be reconsidered....*(Interruptions).*

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: We can take a pilot project of Andhra Pradesh. You give us, at least, one year's time. Sir, there are so many other States.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, nobody is helping the farmers. Banks are not prepared to help them. The Government is not coming forward to help them. They must be helped. Otherwise, this industry will totally collapse.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Promotion of exports

*227. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for encouraging export promotion in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that minimum five members should be allowed to go to foreign countries for export promotion development under Ministry's Market Development Authority;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this would boost the export promotion activities; and

(e) if not, whether Government will review this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Export promotion continues to be a major thrust area. Various measures to boost exports have been undertaken in order to provide competitive edge to the Indian goods in the International market which, *inter alia,* include the following:

• Formulation of Medium Term Export Strategy for the period 2002—07, which gives a road map for export sector by setting a

target of achieving 1% of world exports (US$ 80 billion) by the year 2007.

- Reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment.
- Social financial package to manufacturer exporters with an export contract of Rs. 100 crore or above for the period of one year.
- Extension of the normal to repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days for exports for a period of one year on exports made to Latin American countries.
- Upward revision of duty drawback rates on a number of product groups.
- Removal of restrictions for exports on a number of items.
- Reduction in the transaction costs through decentralization and simplification of procedures.
- Setting up of Special Economic Zones.
- Setting up a Business Information and Facilitation Centre with a Trade Portal.
- Woven segment of readymade garments has been de-reserved from the SSI sector. De-reservation of knitted segment has also been announced in the budget 2002-03.
- Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme simplified to the advantage of the exporters in undertaking market promotion activities abroad.
- Launching Market Access Initiative scheme to give more thrust than in the past, in marketing our products to the global markets.

(b) to (e) Under the MDA scheme guidelines, there is no minimum requirement in terms of numbers for undertaking export

promotion activities either by way of sale cum study tour or participation in fairs/exhibitions etc. However, these guidelines stipulate that in respect of joint market promotion activities organized by the Export Promotion Councils etc., there should be a minimum participation of five exporters. This is considered necessary in order to ensure effective representation of the industry especially keeping in view the fact that such events involve additional expenditure from public funds in meeting the cost of visit of accompanying Council officials and other common activities.

The entire thrust of the MDA scheme is to assist export promotion activities in partnership with the exporting community, and presently there is no proposal to review the guidelines stipulating participation of at least five exporters in market promotion activities organized by the Councils etc.,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lajpat Rai. Are you not interested in putting supplementaries?

SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Sir, I am satisfied with the reply given.

*228. *[The questioner (Shri Nana Deshmukh) was absent for answer vide page 30 infra.]*

*229. *[The questioners (Shri Kapil Sibal and Shri Ram Jethmalani) were absent for answer vide page 31 infra.]*

*230. *[The questioner (Shri Vijay Singh Yadav) was absent for answer vide page 32 infra.]*

Movement of farm products

*231. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of farmers' organizations have demanded that controls on movement of a farm products be removed and concessional import duty on farm machinery be levied; and